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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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SUBJECT: FORTNIGHTLY FOOD SHOPPING TIPS. Information from the U.S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics and from the Consumers' Counsel of the Triple-A.

--ooOoo--

This is the day for our food shopping tips. Many housewives find it helps in buying and in planning ahead, to know something about the supply of the different foods.

The economists tell us that the last half of this year that the total food supplies in this country won't be as large as they were last year-----But don't jump at the wrong conclusion-- those total supplies include supplies for use here at home and for export --- and we all know what has happened to exports. Less of our food products are going abroad, and if that keeps up, it seems likely that the food available for use in this country will be about the same as last year. Less of some foods, but more of others.

Looking ahead, it now seems likely that, by and large, the country over, we will have on our markets more pork, more of the better grade beef, more lard, and cheese, and evaporated milk, and more summer oranges.

On the other hand, our markets are likely to show less lower grade beef, less poultry and eggs, less canned fruits and dried fruits, and less vegetables, canned and fresh. And less fresh fruits, except citrus.

As for the supplies of butter, and wheat, and lamb, and dried beans, and most grades of beef, the economists think we will have about the same supplies as last year.



But let's hear now about the market prospects in the shopping days just ahead ---bearing in mind, of course, that markets in some localities may differ from the general run, due to local conditions.

One of the things we look for in July is watermelons. And the news is that we are very likely to have more watermelons on the market this year than we had last --- simply because farmers are growing more watermelons this year----many more.

On the other hand, the July shipments of cantaloup are likely to be smaller than they were last year. So much for melons. As for fruits:

Peach marketings reach their high point this month. But it still looks as if we can't expect quite as big supplies of peaches, apricots, sweet cherries, and grapes as we had last summer. On the other hand, sour cherries and summer oranges will be more plentiful. And the prospect is for little change in the supplies of pears and California plums.

This is the time of the year that tomatoes are ordinarily very plentiful, and the supplies of tomatoes probably will continue relatively large during the rest of this month. The big commercial tomato growing regions which market in July are raising more tomatoes this year than they did last. And the market gardens near many of the cities are reported to have large supplies of tomatoes coming on the market this month.

And during the latter part of July, and early in August, potatoes are likely to be plentiful -- a little more so, than at this time last year.

As for butter and eggs -- well -- butter making was at its top point last month. From now on, for the rest of this year, butter making is going down. Fewer eggs are expected to be on the market later in the year, but supplies this month seem likely to be about the same as they were in July last year.



Now for our meats. What are the prospects for the different meats?

Well, in recent weeks, the supply outlook for beef and lamb hasn't changed much. Lamb is more plentiful this summer, and the housewife is likely to find the supplies of lamb bigger than last year up through November.

On the other hand, the supplies of beef probably won't differ much from last summer. True, we did point out a few minutes ago, that we might have more of the better grades of beef on the market--but, you remember we said that we would probably have less of the lower grade beef. All in all, the larger supplies of better grade beef will about offset the smaller supplies of lower grade beef, so total supplies of beef won't differ much.

Pork is still very plentiful. All during this month, in August and through September, the outlook is for more pork than last year. After that, pork is not likely to be so plentiful--- but we will still have plenty of pork on the market--probably more than in most other years in the last six or seven years--- but farmers are now planning to raise fewer pigs this next season.

Now that is the general picture of the supplies of meats, and vegetables, and fruits, from which the housewife who buys for the family may choose. She may find some good bargains this month and certainly she will have an abundance of good foods from which to choose.

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